

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 KHARTO 00120 141250Z

51

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 NEA-09 ISO-00 IO-10 SAB-01 SAM-01 PM-03 NSC-05

SP-02 SS-15 RSC-01 PRS-01 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

DODE-00 /062 W

----- 021458

R 141220Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9268

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMCONSUL ASMARA

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

C O N F I D E N T I A L KHARTOUM 0120

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINS, ET

SUBJECT: ERITREA: FONMIN KHALID COMMENTS

REF: ADDIS 0297 (NOTAL)

1. FONMIN MANSOUR KHALID TOLD ME JAN 12 THAT EPMG DELEGATION (REFTEL) HAD SIMPLY TRANSITTED KHARTOUM. HE THEN COMMENTED IT WOULD BE PREFERABLE FOR EPMG NEGOTIATE WITH GUERILLA LEADERS IN AUTHORITY INSIDE ETHIOPIA, RATHER THAN OUTSIDE, RECALLING ALGERIAN EXPERIENCE. KHALID FELT ELF/PLF DEMAND FOR FULL INDEPENDENCE REPRESENTED NEGOTIATING POSITION, BUT THAT OSMAN SALEM SABBEH (PLF LEADER WHO WE UNDERSTAND USUALLY OUTSIDE ERITREA) MIGHT PROVE DIFFICULT. "SOME ARAB STATES" WERE SUPPORTING HIM, BUT GOS WAS SEEKING PERSUADE THEM MODERATE THEIR ROLE IN INTEREST FACILITATING COMPROMISE SETTLEMENT. (COMMENT: WE ASSUME ONE STATE KHALID HAD IN MIND IS LIBYA.)

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PAGE 02 KHARTO 00120 141250Z

2. FONMIN EMPHASIZED THAT INTEGRITY AFRICAN

CONTINENT SHOULD BE PRESERVED RATHER THAN DIVISION
OF ETHIOPIA INTO TWO OR MORE STATES. MOST ERITREAN LEADERS
WOULD, HE THOUGHT, FIND ACCEPTABLE SOME FORM AUTONOMY
WITHIN ETHIOPIA WHICH COULD BE WORKED OUT WITHOUT ENCOURAGING
FISSIPAROUS TENDENCIES ELSEWHERE IN COUNTRY.

3. I TOLD KHALID WE WERE WATCHING SITUATION CLOSELY. ABLE
NEW USG AMBASSADOR-DESIGNATE HAD JUST BEEN ANNOUNCED
AND WE CONTINUED HOPE SITUATION WOULD EVOLVE IN MODERATE
DIRECTION.
BREWER

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NNN

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